

**CLAIMS**

1. A resistive element controllable to irreversibly decrease its value, comprising:

several polysilicon resistors (Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4) associated in series between  
5 two input/output terminals (11, 12) of the resistive element; and

an assembly of switches (MN1, MN3, MN5, MP1, MP2), connected to turn the series association into a parallel association of said resistors between two programming terminals (13, 14) intended to receive a supply voltage.

10 2. The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said switch assembly (MN1, MN3, MN5, MP1, MP2) comprises one more switch than the resistive element comprises resistors (Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4), one (MN5) of the switches connecting one (12) of said input/output terminals to one (14) of said programming terminals.

15 3. The resistive element of claim 2, wherein said switches (MN1, MN3, MN5, MP1, MP2) comprise MOS transistors with a number of N-channel transistors greater by one than the number of P-channel transistors.

4. The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said switch assembly comprises  
20 as many switches as the resistive element comprises resistors, one of said input/output terminals being the same as one of said programming resistors.

5. The resistive element of claim 4, wherein said switches are formed of MOS transistors distributed half and half between P-channel transistors and N-channel  
25 transistors.

6. The resistive element of claim 1, wherein each interconnection point (15, 16, 17) between two resistors (Rp1, Rp2; Rp2, Rp3; Rp3, Rp4) is connected to a first terminal of a switch (MP2, MN3, MP4) of the assembly, the second terminal of which is  
30 connected to one of said programming terminals (13, 14).

7. The resistive element of claim 1, wherein each of the resistors (Rp1, Rp2,

Rp3, Rp4) has an identical nominal value.

8. The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said programming is performed by imposing in each of the resistors (Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4) a constraint current greater  
5 than a current for which the value of this resistance exhibits a maximum.

9. The resistive element of claim 8, wherein said constraint current stands beyond an operating current range of the resistive element when the resistors (Rp1, Rp2, Rp3, Rp4) are in series.